

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 186151

14

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DRAFTED BY EA/TB: MR. TOMSETH:SPB

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S/PRS - RLFUNSETH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS STATE 186151

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, TH

SUBJECT:THAI VISA FOR W P CORRESPONDENT LEWIS SIMONS

1. THE WASHINGTON POST WOULD LIKE TO ESTABLISH A REGIONAL BUREAU OFFICE IN BANGKOK TO REPLACE THE OFFICE RECENTLY CLOSED IN NEW DELHI. TOWARD THAT END, POST CORRESPONDENT LEWIS SIMONS RECENTLY SOUGHT AN IMMIGRANT VISA AT THE THAI CONSULATE GENERAL IN HONG KONG. SIMONS WAS TOLD THAT THE CONSULATE GENERAL COULD NOT ISSUE HIM A VISA OF ANY SORT, AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO RETURN TO THE U.S. TO MAKE HIS APPLICATION.
2. AT THE REQUEST OF THE POST, THE DEPARTMENT WAS IN TOUCH WITH THE THAI EMBASSY HERE TO CLARIFY THAI POLICY REGARDING THIS MATTER. WE WERE TOLD THAT THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN HONG KONG INDEED CANNOT ISSUE SIMONS A VISA ON ITS OWN AUTHORITY BUT CAN ACCEPT HIS APPLICATION FOR A NON-IMIIGRANT VISA. THE APPLICATION WOULD HAVE TO BE PASSED TO THE THAI IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. IF APPROVED BY IMMIGRATION, AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE THE VISA WOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED
3. ALTERNATIVELY, SIMONS COULD TRAVEL TO BANGKOK

PAGE 02 STATE 186151

SENT TO HONG KONG. ONE OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ISSUANCE OF A VISA WOULD BE A GUARANTOR IN THAILAND.

WITHOUT A VISA. HE WOULD BE GIVEN A STAY PERMIT GOOD FOR FIFTEEN DAYS UPON ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT IN THAILAND. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY HERE SAYS THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ADJUST HIS STATUS SUBSEQUENT TO HIS ARRIVAL AND WOULD HAVE TO DEPART WITHIN FIFTEEN DAYS.

4. FOR BANGKOK: WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD ASK THE APPROPRIATE THAI OFFICIALS TO GIVE SIMONS' APPLICATION FOR A NON-IMMIGRANT VISA SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION WHEN AND IF IT IS MADE.

5. FOR HONG KONG: WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD BRIEF SIMONS ON THE INFORMATION IN PARAS 2 AND 3 ABOVE. IN ADDITION, HE SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THAILAND MAINTAINS AN ANNUAL QUOTA OF 200 IMMIGRANT VISAS PER NATIONALITY WHICH ARE ISSUED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS. SIMONS CAN BE REACHED AT THE WASHINGTON POST OFFICE AT 2 KENNEDY TERRACE, HONG KONG, TELEPHONE 243751, OR AT THE HOME OF DAVID GREENWAY AT KAIRLANE TOWERS, APT. 15C, 7-B BOWEN ROAD, HONG KONG, TELEPHONE 241859. KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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